

WINGSPREAD

Wing bids farewell to commander

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

“I expect our folks to take good care of themselves, their families and each other while we stay focused on our mission of producing the world’s best navigators, electronic warfare officers and instructor pilots.” These were the words of Col. John Hesterman when he took command of the 12th Flying Training Wing May 28, 2004.

Today the wing bids their brigadier general-select commander farewell as he leaves for an assignment as special assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations at Air Force Headquarters in Washington. D.C.

Col. Richard Clark, vice wing commander, takes charge of the wing in a formal change of command ceremony today at 2 p.m. in Washington Circle.

Many changes took place on Randolph under Colonel Hesterman’s watch.

The wing earned an “Excellent” rating in an Air Education and Training Command operational readiness inspection in September 2005.

While doing the work to earn that rating, the wing completed the transition of the Joint Undergraduate Specialized Navigator Training program to the new Combat Systems Officer training program in the fall of 2004.

Setting a new tradition, the Airman Leadership School was dedicated to former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Robert Gaylor in September 2004.

The wing transitioned to civilian management of its logistics readiness and civil engineer operations and is well on the way to complete civilian operations in the two base control towers.

The wing completed changes to the T-38C, including the propulsion modification program for all assigned aircraft. This led to revisions to the training syllabus and changes throughout the maintenance side of the team.

The total rebuilding of the Harmon Drive and main gate areas moved steadily through a planned two-year development process. The project is nearing completion with the new visitor reception center and commercial vehicle inspection area expected to open in February.

Construction of a new fitness center and a major renovation to the base commissary are proceeding on schedule.

In addition to the ORI last year, another major event of 2005 was the air show, attended by more than 250,000 people who came to see the Air Force

“To the outstanding men and women of the 12th Flying Training Wing and Team Randolph,

Thanks for making us part of the family! We hope our paths cross many times. Until then, all the very best and a fond farewell.”

John, Jenni & Sarah Hestermann



(Photo by David Terry)

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Maintenance Directorate earns command honors

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

The 12th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate recently garnered top honors in the Air Education and Training Command 2005 Maintenance Effectiveness Awards competition.

Having taken first place twice now, the last time in 2001 when it was known as the Aircraft Maintenance Organization, base officials couldn’t be prouder.

“Our maintenance professionals are outstanding day in and day out, and this award is well deserved,” said Col. Richard Clark, 12th Flying Training Wing vice commander. “We are all very proud of their accomplishment, but we aren’t surprised.”

With three flightlines and five dissimilar types of aircraft to maintain, the Maintenance Directorate still managed to deliver exceptional support to the wing’s mission, earning both an “Excellent” rating in September’s Operational Readiness

Inspection but also a “best seen to date” kudo from the AETC Inspector General.

“The diverse tasks it takes to successfully carry out the wing’s operational mission requires the diverse skills and disciplines the MX people bring to the table,” said Ronald Patterson, 12th Maintenance Director. “If we’re not ready to try new things, somebody is going to pass us up and these people are willing to put the extra effort into finding new and better ways of getting the job done.”

“There is a can-do attitude of service shared by the people of the directorate and that makes the difference in how we meet the demands of the flight line,” he said.

During the award period the directorate successfully launched more than 35,000 sorties with 140 aircraft, while exceeding the AETC overall cumulative mission capable rates.

In addition to supporting the wing’s missions, the directorate funded the maintenance of the West Coast T-6A Texan II Aerial Demonstration Team



John Arnold (left), Jose Arispe (above right) and Ralph Johnston complete a check of a T-6 Texan II engine in Hangar 40. (Photo by Steve White)

that supports Air Force recruiting efforts at air shows around the country. They also support the loan of aerospace ground equipment to bases throughout Texas and Louisiana, including AGE support to presidential

jets flying out of Robert Gray Airfield at Fort Hood, Texas. The Maintenance Directorate was also recognized for innovations in tool

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12th Flying Training Wing Training Status									
Pilot Instructor Training <small>As of Monday</small>			Navigator, EWO Students				Wing Flying Hour Program		
			562nd FTS		563rd FTS		Aircraft	Required	Flown Annual
Squadron	Seniors	Overall	CSO/NFO	CSO	Graduate EWO				
99th FTS	-6.0	-2.0	USAF 234	OPS 23	International 4	T-1A	3121.2	3009.7	10,725
558th FTS	-7.0	-1.1	Navy 37	Advanced EW 28	EW Course 0	T-6A	4940.8	4862.0	17,196
559th FTS	-10.4	-1.7	International 0	Integration 25	Intro to EW 0	T-37B	1399.2	1390.3	5,796
560th FTS	-5.8	1.2	Total in Training 274	76	4	T-38C	2640.4	2737.8	9,937
<small>Numbers reflect days ahead or behind for senior pilot instructor training class and an average for all PIT classes currently in training.</small>			<small>Numbers reflect students currently in training. The 562nd shows source of combat systems officer students. Air Force students include Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The 563rd indicates students in specific courses.</small>				<small>The required and flown numbers reflect hours flown between Oct. 1, 2005 to date. The annual numbers are total hours for fiscal year 2006.</small>		

AIR AND SPACE
EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE

As of Monday, 95 Team
Randolph members are
deployed in support of
military operations
around the globe

Commander's Action Line

Call 652-5149 or e-mail
randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil



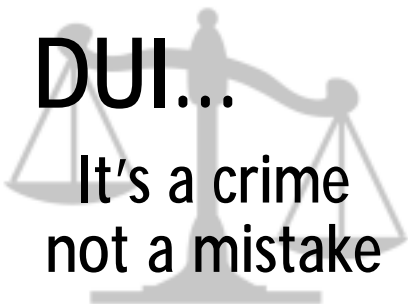
While our goal is to provide the best programs, products and services to our customers, there will be instances when people believe we could have served them better. In those cases, I ask the individual to first contact the responsible organization to allow the unit commander or manager an opportunity to ensure professional and impartial treatment.

When those officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual may contact me through the Action Line. I will ensure each Action Line call is looked into and a reply is given by telephone or in writing. I ask callers to include their name and telephone number so we may send a personal response.

Col. John Hesterman
12th Flying Training Wing commander

Agency Contact Numbers	
12th FTW IG	652-2727
12th FTW Legal Office	652-6781
Base Exchange	674-8917
Civil Engineers	652-2401
Civilian Pay	652-6480
Commissary	652-5102
EEO Complaints	652-3749
Equal Opportunity	652-4376
FW&A Hotline	652-3665
Housing Maintenance	652-1856
Military Pay	652-1851
Randolph Clinic	652-2933
Safety Office	652-2224
Security Forces	652-5509
Services	652-5971
Sexual Assault	
Response Coordinator	652-8787
Straight Talk	652-7469
Transportation	652-4314

“PROTECT YOUR WINGMAN”



Team Randolph's
last DUI was
August 2, 2005

Make an investment in yourself

By Chief Master Sgt. Chris Schloemer
12th Mission Support Squadron

“What is a college algebra course going to do for me to make me a better crew chief?” snarled the master sergeant to me when I was a young first sergeant. “Why do I need a CCAF degree anyway? Why is this so important?”

I had to think about that for a second, but the answer was easy.

For one thing, it will help you in your career. Most of those promoted to senior master sergeant or chief master sergeant have a Community College of the Air Force associate degree. Odds are you might not get a senior rater endorsement without it.

Getting a promotion or a better performance report is important, but is not the most important reason to get an education.

You may decide to honorably serve the Air Force for 20-30 years and then pursue another career, in which case education is very important.

It's a proven fact that people with a degree make more money in the civilian sector than those without one. According to the Census Bureau, over an adult's working life, high school graduates earn an average of \$1.2 million; associate's degree holders earn about \$1.6 million; and bachelor's degree holders earn about \$2.1 million.

However, getting a bigger paycheck is also not the most important reason to pursue an advanced degree either.

The most important reason is it will make you a better Airman. Consider it an investment in yourself.

We all know about the emphasis on keeping in shape physically, but what about mentally? Education falls right in line with our core values, specifically Excellence in All We Do.

According to the Core Values pamphlet, personal excellence means “military professionals must seek out and complete professional military education, stay in physical and mental shape, and continue to refresh their general educational backgrounds.”

By continuing your education, whether it is working towards a CCAF, bachelor's or higher degree, you keep your mind in shape. This is important.

I believe one reason we are the greatest enlisted corps in the world is because we are more educated than our counterparts around the world. To keep the edge, we must keep our minds finely tuned. This makes us better thinkers, problem solvers, managers and leaders.

It benefits you no matter how long you stay in the Air Force. Gaining more knowledge and getting a little smarter will never hurt you. Why not get as much education as you can while you're getting 100 percent tuition assistance?

You, your career, your family and the Air Force all benefit when you take advantage of the educational opportunities the Air Force offers. That's why the Air Force pays for it. We know we will get a good return on the investment. So make an investment in yourself.

Perspective: Four years and I'm out?

By Staff Sgt. Christopher Tuck
379th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) – I am willing to bet every Airman has heard these words at least once in his or her career: “Four years, and I'm out.”

Maybe it's an off-hand remark at the end of a frustrating week or after a long, thoughtful gaze at the inviting green grass on the other side. Either way, most of us have considered it.

But, somewhere along the way a change occurs. Whether the decision comes as a gradual realization or it hits you like a lightning bolt, something happens to change your mind.

Another quote you are likely to hear is: “I joined the Air Force to get money for college.” I've said it myself many times. The Montgomery G.I. Bill is the reason I enlisted, but not the reason I stayed.

Today's Air Force is the most educated in history. For the enlisted, more Airmen hold associate's and bachelor's degrees today than ever before. On the officer side, master's degrees are quickly becoming the norm. If it is knowledge you seek, the educational opportunities are there.

So, how does an Airman migrate from, “Should I stay or should I go” to a distinguished 20- or 30-year career?

It may be the feeling of being part of a trusted and honorable profession.

A Gallup poll in May 2005 asked adults nationwide how

much confidence they had in a variety of professions. Seventy-four percent said they had a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the U.S. military. That ranks higher than all other entities offered by the survey.

It may also be our accomplishments as a force.

The services people here provide more meals in one week than any one of us will consume individually in our entire lifetime. Think about that. Look at our civil engineers; in the past few weeks lodging tents have grown like mushrooms where parking lots once were.

And of course, there is always the runway. When you have a chance, watch the aircraft come and go and think about the effort required to launch and fly those sorties. All of these great things are accomplished by Air Force and coalition units, but where the rubber meets the road there is an individual giving their best effort to bake the biscuits and turn the wrenches.

We all have days where our commitment is tested, but life has a funny way of changing you. “Four years and out” was my mantra some years and one reenlistment ago. I gradually realized the Air Force offers job satisfaction and a sense of team absent in many civilian careers.

The decision to stay in or separate is your personal choice to make. When you find yourself straddling the fence, your motivation tested and that grass on the other side is looking awfully green, watch our jets over head and remind yourself: “I did my job today.”

WINGSPREAD

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Division of the 12th Flying Training Wing in accordance with local policy and style guidance. All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are U.S. Air Force photos.

Articles for the newspaper should be submitted by noon Thursday the week prior to the desired publication date. Items can be dropped off on a PC- or Macintosh-formatted disk at the Wingspread office in room 110 of Building 100.

Articles may also be sent by e-mail to wingspread@randolph.af.mil or by fax at 652-5412 or base ext. 7-5412.

For more information about submissions, call 652-5760 or base ext. 7-5760.

Congratulations Retirees

Today
Master Sgt. Calvin Thompson
Air Education and Training Command

Wednesday
Lt. Col. Ron Hatfield
AETC

Retirement announcements should be submitted to the Wingspread office by noon Friday two weeks prior to the desired date of publication. E-mail announcements to randolph.retiree.messages@randolph.af.mil or fax them to 652-5412. For more information, call the Wingspread office at 652-5760.

DUIs wreck lives, lead to lifetime of regret

By Airman 1st Class Mark Bannert
13th Intelligence Squadron

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFPN) – My blues are crisp. My low-quarters are highly shined. My hair is freshly cut and my face is closely shaven. I appear the consummate Airman.

My palms are sweating. I have a meeting with my commander.

I enter the room trying to be cool and confident, but uncontrollably, my face flushes. There are so many other scenarios where reporting to the commander would be a proud moment.

I stand at attention saluting my commander. As my reporting statement leaves my lips, my mouth feels as if I have just swallowed a cup of sand. The words are slow and forced. My head is spinning. The usually calming blue hue of his kind eyes have turned into something different.

I see red flames and feel the utter anger and disgust he feels toward me wearing the same uniform as him. He feels that I have disrespected my country, my Air Force, and my squadron. His voice is calm and confident. “What were you thinking?” Before I can speak, my mind is flooded with the memories of that night.

The night is cold and rain is falling all around me like little liquid spears. The fight I was in with my girlfriend has my blood flowing and my mind

“Slam! My world is rocked by a loud crash, a plume of chalky air and my nose hurts. The airbags have deployed and I am confused about what exactly has happened.”

racing. The alcohol in my system does nothing to help calm me or collect my thoughts.

There are 85 miles between where I am and where I need to be. I could call Beale Airmen Against Drunk Driving or one of my co-workers and they will surely come to get me but I don’t. I don’t want to disrupt them. I’ll just see how I do.

I get in the car; the ignition is difficult to find in my drunken stupor but I am finally able to find it and turn the key. My music is blaring, and I feel quite drowsy.

I’ll just roll down the window. The cool air and rain hitting my face wakes me momentarily. I find my way out of the neighborhood and hit the freeway. The next hour and a half I go in and out of consciousness a few times, scaring myself.

I’m singing at the top of my lungs to stay awake; finally the alcohol and humming of the road take over.

Slam! My world is rocked by a loud crash, a plume of chalky air and my nose hurts. The airbags have deployed and I am confused about what exactly has happened.

I instantly try to restart the car. I am only 15 minutes from my friend’s house and there is no way he will deny me sleeping there.

The car won’t start and I am in a ditch. I turn off my headlights and decide that I will just walk to my destination. The car is totaled. Both the front and back of the car are smashed into the cabin and miraculously I am uninjured.

No one will see the car and I’ll get a tow truck to pick it up in the morning. I stagger down the road upset and confused until a black car stops and asks me if I need help. He says, “Hop in, I’ll give you a ride.” I get in and as he turns the car around he asks me, “Are you OK?”

Then he asks if I was involved in the car wreck. He tells me he has both good and bad news for me. I ask; “What’s the good news?” not sure what exactly he means and he tells me that he picked me up. I inquire further. “What’s the bad news?” He says he is an off-duty cop and he’s taking me back to the scene.

My heart races and the only thing I can think of is how to get myself out of

this. They do not understand what I have been through tonight.

Next thing I know we are back at the scene. I only made it five miles before I was picked up. The police are amazed to see me unscathed after seeing the car and tell me I’m lucky. As they are putting me in cuffs and reading me my rights, I am not thinking that I am lucky, I’m thinking I’m screwed; my career is over. And in a way all that was true.

Any trust I had developed with my co-workers over the past six months is gone. There are going to be repercussions from this for the rest of my career. Every base I go to will know, “This is the guy that got the DUI.” Enlisted Performance Reports will be low, encouraging more low EPRs.

When new people enter the squadron they are notified quite quickly that I am a troublemaker and someone not to be associated with. No matter that I have changed.

I want to be that same troop I was when I joined, full of promise and honor, morals and virtue guiding my everyday decisions. I must now try twice as hard to get half the distance as my peers. In the end “A man’s character is his fate.” – Heraclitus.

So keep your path filled with character that expresses our core values – “Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all you do” and you will lead a successful life of no regret.

NEWS

Randolph switching to new travel system

Randolph will soon join other Air Force units that are using the new Defense Travel System.

First envisioned in the mid-1990s, DTS fielding began in 2001 at 27 pilot sites and at 232 other sites across the Department of Defense, and is already supporting hundreds of thousands of military and civilian personnel.

Randolph will begin fielding the new system March 1 and will complete the transition by the end of the calendar year, according to officials in the 12th Comptroller Squadron.

It replaces the current Federal Automated System for Travel, known as FAST.

The benefits DTS brings to travelers, authorizing officials, managers and commanders include fast, electronic reimbursement of travel expenses; approvals and certifications tied directly to mission; a significant reduction in time spent administering travel; reduced paperwork; and the automated payment of government charge cards, said DTS officials.

DTS became the official DoD temporary duty travel system on Dec. 24, 2003, and was approved for fielding to the entire Defense Department.

“Within the next two years we will deploy DTS to the most high-volume travel sites within DoD,” said Col. Brandy Johnson, DTS program director. “It will take time to deploy DTS to all of the DoD, but the process is well underway.”

As of the end of August 2005, DTS was operating at more than 180 of the almost 200 major high-volume-travel locations planned for initial deployment across DoD, officials said.

Officials estimate DTS will be functioning at 11,000 DoD locations by the end of fiscal year 2006, including Randolph, at which point DTS will support more than 90 percent of all DoD business travel.

Colonel Johnson described DTS as “a state-of-the-art system... that draws from the best features of commercial travel technology and links them to the DoD financial and accounting systems to provide the user a seamless, responsive travel system.”

“DTS will mean online TDY travel for virtually every person in the Department of Defense, both civilian and military,” she said. “This is a quality of life issue for our people. They deserve DTS.”

DTS places approval of travel arrangements and

certification of travel vouchers at the traveler’s worksite instead of at a servicing finance location, officials said. This places the authority to make travel decisions with the leaders and managers responsible for completing the mission.

Reports to Congress based on field-testing of DTS indicate that on average the time spent administering travel is cut to one-third of what it had been before DTS.

Automated payment of government charge cards makes DTS “a knight in shining armor” for many travelers and for military Services and Defense agencies, the colonel said. It takes much of the after-the-fact bill paying responsibility away from the traveler, and will help reduce delinquencies that are caused by having the extra delay in the payment and repayment chain. Once a voucher is approved for payment, reimbursement for expenses charged to the traveler’s government charge card is made electronically directly to the traveler’s individual account.

To learn more about DTS, people can visit the Defense Travel System Travel Center Web site at www.dtstravelcenter.dod.mil.

12th MX

Continued from Page 1

accountability systems, consolidating more than 50,000 equipment and technical orders. Those ideas are now being used at other bases. Personnel of the directorate developed improved methods earning more than \$41,000 in the Air Force IDEA program. Their automated system for processing and tracking overtime expenses is now under consideration as an Air Force best practice.

Jeffery Johnson, one of the T-1 and T-38 crew chiefs, summed up the attitude he has observed here.

“It’s the idea of mutual support,” he said. “When someone has a question about how a particular job is supposed to be done, he or she feels free to ask for help, even if the person with the answer is younger or newer in the organization. The sense of pride comes from getting the planes launched safely. That takes all of us pulling together.”

The citation accompanying the award concludes, “Through creativity and resourcefulness the Randolph Maintainers developed significant cost effective initiatives saving the Air Force over ten million dollars.”



Daniel Salinas (left) and Rene Reyes, aircraft maintenance technicians in the 12th Flying Training Wing’s T-43 dock, check the wing slat system to ensure its proper operation. (Photo by Steve White)

NEWS BRIEFS

Technology Expo here Tuesday
The 12th Communications Squadron sponsors the 2006 Randolph Air Force Base Technology Expo Tuesday at the officers' club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Base Airmen and civilians are invited to attend the free event and see the latest in information technology and equipment.

FCT program representative visit
Representatives of the Air Force Foreign Comparative Testing Program Office visit Randolph Thursday at 8:30 a.m. in the civil engineers conference room, Building 901, to explain the FCT program. The program is intended to test and evaluate foreign defense equipment developed by friendly nations to determine whether such equipment can satisfy U.S. warfighting requirements. For more information, call the FTC team at (703) 588-8926.

RFISD honors school board
Governor Rick Perry proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month. The Randolph Field independent School District board is headed by President John McKinley, Vice President Sharon Holland, and members Jerry Hust, Paul Machen and Gene Quintanilla.

Junior ROTC staff openings
The Air Force Junior ROTC is opening 75 new units at the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year. There will be 150 job openings for retired or soon-to-be retired officers and NCOs in high schools around the nation. For a list of current openings, go to www.afots.af.mil/AFJROTC/instructors.asp or call 1-866-235-7682, ext. 35275 or 35300.

Free theme park tickets
Officials of the Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks announced their "Here's to the Heroes" tribute to military members is being offered again in 2006. The program offers free, one-day admission to U. S. and coalition military members and their dependents at the company's nine theme parks, including Sea World San Antonio. Inactive, standby and retired military members and civilian Department of Defense employees are not eligible.

Student wins geography bee
Eighth grader Ryan Lowry captured the Randolph Middle School-level competition of the National Geographic Bee. He now goes on to the state-level competition held at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth March 31.

Students win top honors
The Randolph Middle School Academic Team won 31 placements at the annual University Interscholastic League district meet held recently in Blanco and Johnson City. The team brought home eight first and second place awards.

Spouses to Teachers
Spouses to Teachers is a Department of Defense program designed to assess the needs of spouses of active duty and selected Reserve and National Guard members who want to become school teachers. For details, call 1-800-231-6282 or visit www.spousestoteachers.com.

Hispanic scholarships awarded
Tech. Sgt. Adalberto Velez, Randolph Hispanic Council president, presented scholarships to nine graduating seniors from Memorial High School in San Antonio Jan. 12 on behalf of the council.



2nd Lt. Joshua Beasley
EC-130 (EWO)
Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Claudia Booher
C-130E
171 AS, Selfridge, Mich.



2nd Lt. Stephen Catalano
B-52 (EWO)
Barksdale AFB, La.



2nd Lt. Russell Dalhart
E-3
Tinker AFB, Okla.



2nd Lt. Joseph DeDonato
KC-135
Robins AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Scott Dorris
AC-130U (EWO)
Hurlburt Field, Fla.



Ensign Ryan Gagnet
EP-3
NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.



2nd Lt. Gary Glover
RC-135 (EWO)
Offutt AFB, Neb.



2nd Lt. David Hale
C-130
Yokota AB, Japan



2nd Lt. Christopher Lammens
HC-130
Moody AFB, Ga.



Capt. Benjamin Meggett
C-130
165 AS, Louisville, Ky.



2nd Lt. Robert Odom
E-8
Robins AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Cody Porter
AC-130U (EWO)
Hurlburt Field, Fla.



Ensign Nicholas Rueda
P-3
NAS Jacksonville, Fla.



Lt. j.g. Dean Schoenrock
P-3C
NAS Jacksonville, Fla.



2nd Lt. Joseph Sepko IV
C-130
156 AS, Charlotte, N.C.



2nd Lt. James Sinclair
C-130
Pope AFB, N.C.



Capt. Jacob Stoecker
C-130
182 AW, Peoria, Ill.



2nd Lt. Michael Trimble
C-130
Ramstein AB, Germany



Ensign Cowana White
P-3
NAS Jacksonville, Fla.



CSO graduation today

Sixteen Air Force and four Navy aviators receive their navigator and naval flight officer wings during a Combat Systems Officer graduation ceremony here today.

The ceremony is at 10 a.m. in the

Randolph Officers' Club. The guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Thomas Andersen, 12th Air Force and U.S. Southern Command Air Forces vice commander.

Col. William Watkins, 12th Flying

Training Wing Inspector General, is presenting the students with their respective service's silver wings or gold wings, as well as presenting four special awards during the ceremony for student achievement.

Base tax center opens soon

By Capt. Brian Young
12th Flying Training Wing Legal Office

The Randolph Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program is providing free federal income tax return preparation to active duty service members, retirees and family members who have a valid military ID card beginning Jan. 30.

Assistance is available by appointment only. Volunteers will begin scheduling appointments up through April 17 starting Monday. The tax center is located in the base legal office on the first floor of the Taj Mahal, Building 100, and will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to the tax center, service members can obtain assistance directly through their individual units, most of which have one or more Unit Tax Advisors. UTAs undergo formal tax training from the IRS and are ready to offer the same tax assistance available through the tax center. Active duty members should primarily use their UTAs to ensure timely service, as the tax center is the only base option for qualified family members and retirees, as well as overflow active duty service members.

Returns are generally filed electronically. To do so, the

tax center needs the following information in order to complete a return:

- Valid military ID card
- Social Security cards for all names on tax return (names must be identical to the Social Security card)
- All W2s received (this includes wages, salary, sale of stock or mutual funds, DITY moves for 2005)
- 1099s
- Social Security income forms
- Information regarding stocks, bonds, mortgages, other income, etc.
- Last year's tax returns (if possible)
- Bank account number and routing number needed if electronic tax refund is desired

Tax returns cannot be processed unless all financial paperwork is available for review. For those who want to prepare and file their own taxes, free electronic filing services are available through the IRS's website at www.irs.gov.

For more information about UTAs or to schedule an appointment with the legal office's tax center, call Chris Hull at 652-1040.

WANTED: Knowledgeable motorcyclists interested in instructing

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

The 12th Flying Training Wing Safety Office is looking for volunteers to instruct the base’s motorcycle safety course this summer. Candidates must have at least two years retainability at Randolph, meet certain Air Education and Training Command and Motorcycle Safety Foundation requirements, and complete the two-week RiderCoach Preparation Course Workshop.

“There are a lot of requirements people must meet in order to become a RiderCoach,” said Staff Sgt. David Roller, 12th FTW ground safety craftsman and RiderCoach. “But once they’re qualified they’ll find the job well worth it.”

- People interested in instructing must:
- Be a high school graduate or possess a valid GED;
 - Possess a valid motorcycle drivers license;
 - Be physically competent to conduct classroom and hands-on instruction, including performing technically correct riding demonstrations; and
 - Be an experienced motorcyclist who currently owns and operates a motorcycle on a routine basis.

Tech. Sgt. Larry Ellis of the 12th Security Forces Squadron said becoming a RiderCoach was one of the best decisions he ever made.

"Motorcycling is my passion and I truly found my calling when I became an instructor," Sergeant Ellis said. "After riding for 20 years and then finding out what I was doing wrong, it was an eye-opening experience."

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Tech. Sgt. Larry Ellis
12th Security Forces Squadron

The sergeant said the best part of instructing was hearing a former student tell him how great the class was and that the skills he learned helped save his life. "Hearing something like that from a student really makes the job worth it," he said.

Another important requirement applicants must meet in order to become a RiderCoach is having graduated from both the basic and experienced riders courses.

"This allows them to see the training from the students' point of view," Sergeant Roller said.

Applicants must complete the experienced rider course within one year of entering the RiderCoach Preparation Course Workshop.

"If more than one year has passed, we may require the applicant to re-attend the ERC," the sergeant said. "It's the applicant's responsibility to arrange

attendance in a course before the beginning of a RiderCoach Preparation Course Workshop within the time limit."

When Tech. Sgt. Corey Hulse of Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service started to ride, he said he was like a lot of riders – he had a bike but no training. He couldn't keep up and was intimidated by the bike.

"A neighbor of mine talked me into taking the basic safety class," he said. "Afterward, we were out on a ride and it was like a light bulb came on. It was then I decided I wanted to help other riders, and I've been an instructor ever since, for 10 years now."

The final requirement applicants must meet in order to become an instructor is to work for a training site as a Range Aide, a volunteer work position. Range Aides position cones for range exercises, help maintain course equipment and help clean up the classroom and range areas before and after the courses.

Range Aides can't ride in exercise demonstrations, evaluate or coach students, or teach in the classroom or on the range.

"The Range Aide work allows applicants to view training from the RiderCoach's perspective," Sergeant Roller said. "Being a Range Aid also allows applicants to determine if they really want to be motorcycle RiderCoaches.

"The more range aide work applicants do, the better prepared they will be for RiderCoach training."

For more information or to sign up for the next RCPW, call Sergeant Roller at 652-1842, or download an application at <https://www.aetc.af.mil/se2/safety-ground/index.htm>.

Farewell

Continued from Page 1

Thunderbirds and other top aerial acts perform. The show required the efforts of hundreds of people to plan, host, operate and clean up afterward.

Also during the year, the base celebrated the 75th anniversary of its dedication.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, the Randolph team participated in relief operations and even had search and rescue units staging from here to conduct operations on the Gulf Coast.

President Bush visited the base not once, but twice in the past four months. He spent the night in late September to monitor Hurricane Rita relief operations and returned Jan. 1 to visit troops at Brooke Army Medical Center.

"None of these achievements would have been possible without the fantastic cooperation and dedication of our people working together," Colonel Hesterman said. "The idea of Team Randolph is more than just an enthusiasm-building slogan. It's a driving force that's demonstrated in the record of what our Airmen have accomplished and the way we approach every challenge and opportunity we face."



Col. Richard Clark (right) congratulates Col. John Hesterman upon the completion of his T-38C fini flight as the 12th Flying Training Wing commander Wednesday on the east flightline. Colonel Clark takes command of the wing during a ceremony in Washington Circle today at 2 p.m. (Photo by David Terry)

Monster invasion



Four-year-old Brian Lemus sits in the tire of the Air Force's new monster truck, Afterburner, Jan. 13 while it was on display in the BXtra parking lot. The truck, driven by Paul Cohen, also competed in the San Antonio Monster Jam Jan. 14 while in town. The team made it to the finals, but was edged out by the truck, Grave Digger. (Photo by Steve White)



Artist rendition of new gymnasium entrance at Randolph High School

Construction gives Ro-Hawks room to spread wings

Workers begin phase two of multi-million dollar gymnasium, fine arts center projects

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

The Randolph Field Independent School District's Secondary Schools continue to undergo a major facelift as phase one of construction wraps up and workers focus on phase two – expanding the gymnasium and reconstructing the oldest section of the building.

Phase two features a 7,800 square foot addition, which includes a new gymnasium entrance, concessions area, restroom facilities, expanded weight room, dressing room facilities, basketball bleachers, an upgrade to the stage areas for theater arts, a new

lighting system and electrical panel upgrades.

Phase one, which began last summer, entails a new fine arts center that includes 18,000 square feet of floor space with classrooms for band, choir and art, as well as a kiln room, courtyard area for art students and practice area for choir students.

In addition, the band will have a new rehearsal hall, percussion practice area and other state-of-the-art sound proof and acoustically designed practice areas. There will also be a uniform and instrument storage area, instrument repair room and technology room for computer-assisted instruction.

"These are projects our staff and members of the community have been requesting for a number of

years," said Dr. Barbara Maddox, RFISD superintendent. "We've completely outgrown the current facilities as more and more students have shown interest in becoming a part of our highly successful and award-winning fine arts programs."

The entire project is expected to be complete by the end of the year, according to RFISD officials.

"All of the students, no matter what their interest or hobby at the schools, will enjoy the new buildings and areas," said Jeff Duffield, RFISD public affairs.

The exterior of the fine arts center will be masonry with the brick designed to match the existing buildings on the campus. The total cost of the project is \$3.5 million.

Discovering THE ARTIST Within




Jason Manning (right), arts and crafts center custom framer, helps customer Kevin Bowman frame photos for a black history month display to be hung at the Universal City Library. Mr. Bowman is assigned to the Development and Fielding Systems Group on base.



Lt. Col. Pat May of the Air Force Services Agency wraps copper foil around the edge of a piece of stained glass. The former arts and crafts center student took the basic stained glass class several years ago and now uses the facility to work on her own projects. Customers can use the facility and some equipment for \$2 an hour. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice)

Hobbyists of all ages find tools, inspiration at arts and crafts center

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Whether looking for a new hobby, a means to be creative or for some unique gift ideas, the arts and crafts center is the place to visit.

From custom framing and stained glass to mosaic art and quilting, the center is filled with crafty ideas and classes, said Debra Jamrozy, arts and crafts center manager.

"It's a great place to visit," she said. "We offer a wide variety of classes for those who want to learn a craft as well as sell a variety of pieces for those simply interested in buying something."

The center offers classes four nights a week, including copper foil and lead stained glass, beaded jewelry, photography, sewing, rubber stamp making, pastel painting, creative journaling and more. The classes, which cost between \$5 and \$35, plus supplies, usually run about two hours per session with about three to four sessions total.

The exceptions are rubber stamp making, which is taught in one session and beaded jewelry making which is taught in two sessions.

Ms. Jamrozy added that the center is open to customers of all ages.

"We have classes geared toward both adults and children, so everyone can participate at our facility," she said. "The classes offered for children are especially great because it gives them a chance to be creative and make something on their own. Plus the instructors are really knowledgeable and great with the children."

Some of the classes offered to children include jewelry making and mosaic art.

Ms. Jamrozy said that perhaps the best aspect of the arts and crafts center is that customers can learn a new skill and use it to make really beautiful and personal gifts for those they care about.

"To receive a gift that someone has made is like receiving a piece of that person," she said. "It just warms the heart."



The Randolph Arts and Crafts Center offers both a beginners and advanced stained glass class. Classes are taught in four sessions, once a week for a month.

In addition to classes, the center also specializes in custom framing and laser engraving for plaques and trophies.

"We have a lot of customers who purchase trophies, plaques and framed photographs on behalf of their unit or office as an award or going-away gift," said Ms. Jamrozy. "There is a great selection here for customers to choose from."

One of the center's regulars, Senior Master Sgt. Gerrie O'Brien of the 12th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron said the facility has been a great asset to her over the years.

"Using the framing center, I can make nice going away gifts that are less expensive and hand-made," she said. "Plus, the employees are wonderful to work with."

The arts and crafts center is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Custom framing and engraving is available Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Anyone who hasn't checked out the arts and crafts center should come out today," said Ms. Jamrozy. "I look forward to seeing new faces soon."

To sign up for a class, call 652-5142.

Classes offered at the Randolph Arts & Crafts Center

The deadline to sign-up is one week prior to the first class.

• Stained Glass

Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$35 plus supplies.

• Lead Stained Glass

Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$35 plus supplies.

• Mosaic Art

Feb. 7, 14, and 21 from 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$35 plus supplies.

• Basic Beaded Jewelry

Feb. 7 and 9, from 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$15 plus supplies.

• Quilting

Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$35 plus supplies.

• Sewing

Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$35 plus supplies.

• Framing

Feb. 7 and 14, and 21 and 28, from 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$35 plus supplies.

• Rubber Stamping

Feb. 7 from 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$5 plus supplies.

• Creative Journaling

Feb. 8, 15 and 22 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$35 plus supplies.

• Pastel Painting

Feb. 1, 8 and 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$35 plus supplies.

LGR opens basketball season with win

By Michael Briggs
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 12th Logistics Readiness Division built a 10-point lead early in the second half and cruised to a 48-40 win over Air Education and Training Command Medical Services & Training in the tip-off of the basketball season Tuesday.

James Ingram scored 13 points and Clifton Hill

scored 11 to lead the LGR offense in the over-30 extramural league opener.

After trading baskets early in the game with neither team able to build a lead, LGR coach Terry Burden switched his team's defensive formation midway through the half.

"We were rusty and our defense was lacking, so we switched from a zone to a man-to-man defense," Burden said. "That defensive pressure opened up the

offense with more fast breaks and lay-up opportunities."

The move worked and sparked LGR to an 11-5 run and a 22-15 lead.

Ingram scored on two fast break lay-ups and Thomas Pope tossed in a three-point shot from the left side of the key to start the run.

LGR was dominant on the boards and quick outlet passes were getting the offense down the court in a hurry on each possession. The tempo tired out the SG team that only had one spare player on the bench to spell the five on the court.

LGR's offensive spurt was short-lived, though, and neither squad was able to shake the first-game rust and develop any consistency on offense.

Ronald Pinson of SG chipped into the LGR lead late in the half when, after knocking down a three-pointer, he stole the ball and made the breakaway lay-up to bring SG to within two points of the lead at 24-22.

With one second left on the clock, Ingram scored on a baseline drive to give LGR a 26-22 halftime lead.

LGR opened up the second half with a 10-4 run to put the game out of reach. This time SG couldn't keep up with the tempo or mount a comeback despite some curious fouls LGR committed late in the game.

Charles Bradshaw came off the bench and used his size under the boards to score six second-half points and help LGR maintain its rebounding dominance.

"We definitely had an edge on the boards," Burden said.

Bradshaw and Martin Espinosa finished the game with eight points each and Thomas Pope added six for LGR.

Eddie Peoples led SG with 12 points, and Pinson and Len McCreary each scored 8.

Extramural games take place Monday and Wednesday, and the intramural league plays on Tuesday and Thursday on the main court in the fitness center. The extramural basketball season runs through March 14 and the intramural regular season ends March 22. Playoffs will follow.



John Luna of Air Education and Training Command Medical Services & Training tries to get through a trap from 12th Logistics Readiness Division defenders Clifton Hill (left) and Al Mir Tuesday during the extramural season opener won by LGR 48-40. (Photo by Joel Martinez)

Body, mind, spirit

New fitness program manager brings enthusiasm to position

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

As more and more people hit the gym trying to stay true to their New Year fitness resolutions, some may find themselves struggling to find a good workout routine that works for them.

That's where Claire Behrens comes in. She's the Randolph Fitness Center's new fitness program manager and sports specialist.

As such, Ms. Behrens instructs customers on the proper use of the center's equipment and helps them figure out what fitness plan works best for them.

Ms. Behrens said she's always been fascinated by fitness.

"I started taking an interest in aerobics and exercise working out at home," Ms. Behrens said. "I loved it so much that I decided to share my passion by taking an aerobics instructor position at a hospital."

After working in several other fitness instructor positions, Ms. Behrens took the Randolph opening in November.

Aside from helping customers, Ms. Behrens is also responsible for making sure the center's equipment remains in good condition, coordinating special fitness events on base and booking classes in the aerobics room.

She said fitness is a very important part of her daily life and feels it should be a high priority for everyone.

"Fitness is vital because it improves our health in so many different ways, both mentally and physically, and it prevents deterioration in the quality of our lives," she said.

The fitness program manager said one of the most frequent questions she gets is from customers who want to know how to choose a

good weight-loss program.

She recommends finding a program that is nutritionally balanced and doesn't promise a weight loss of more than 1-2 pounds weekly.

"If you want to start an exercise program, the first step is to ask yourself how active you want to be and what kind of goals you want to set," Ms. Behrens said. "The goals need to be realistic and something you can keep long term."

One of the biggest parts of making a workout plan a success is choosing an activity that the person enjoys.

"A great combination I would recommend is to incorporate some cardio, strength training and stretching into your program," Ms. Behrens said. "You should always check with your doctor; however, before starting an exercise program, and always listen to your body."

The fitness center offers a variety of activities and equipment for people to use to get fit, she said. Classes include yoga, pilates, cycling, step aerobics, kick boxing and body toning. The center also offers Tae Kwon Do classes and plans to offer self-defense classes in the near future, she said.

The fitness center also features a cardio room complete with treadmills, stationary bikes, stair-stepping machines and elliptical trainers; as well as several weight rooms.

For those customers who prefer to participate in sports to get in shape, the fitness center also has that option.

"There are a lot of sporting activities on base, which are a fun way to get in some exercise during the day," Ms. Behrens said. "We offer different sports throughout the year, such as racquetball, dodge ball, softball, volleyball, bowling and golf."

The fitness program manager said she is also



Randolph's new fitness program manager, Claire Behrens, shows patron Theanne Long how to use an exercise machine at the fitness center. (Photo by Jennifer Valentin)

looking forward to the opening of the new fitness center, and the additional programs that can be implemented to make it even better.

"I hope to bring enthusiasm and passion to the fitness center," Ms. Behrens said. "As I learn more about the customers' needs, I will continue to work hard to accommodate them. They're my number one priority."